

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

September 18, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin

Dear Josh,

In the past few weeks we have started to work with one of the serineless mutants (W 1975) that you so kindly sent me last Spring and have run into certain difficulties which are new to me. Using the Tatum basal medium - which works well for all coli derived from K 12 - and either L-serine or glycine, the maximal growth obtained is never more than about half that observed for K 12 or for other mutants such as the prolineless, methionineless, etc. We've carried out our incubations at 30° and at 35° and have even shaken the incubation tubes without improving the growth as measured on the Evelyn.

Have you any experience along this line which might help us? At the moment we are trying to find out whether W 1975 has any requirements in addition to that for glycine or serine. Incidentally, a serineless strain I got from Bernie Davis acts the same way. Perhaps this is just a characteristic of serine-requiring coli regardless of their origin.

Needless to say, any advice you have to offer concerning this problem will be most welcome.

Sincerely,

Topsy
Sofia Simmonds